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Applicant:

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Wolkers, et al.

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<u>INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT</u> PURSUANT TO 37 C.F.R. §1.56 AND §§1.97-1.98

Commissioner for Patents Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

The citations listed on the enclosed PTO-1449 Form are submitted under 37 C.F.R. §§1.97 and 1.98, and in compliance with the duty of disclosure as defined in 37 C.F.R. §1.56. The Examiner is requested to make these citations officially of record in the application. The items of information contained in the Information Disclosure Statement corresponding to nos. A1 through A4 and C1 through C9 were cited in the parent application, U.S. Application Serial No. 09/501,773 and copies of these prior art references can be found in this file. The item of information corresponding to no. A5 was cited earlier in a communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application not more than three months prior to the filing of this Information Disclosure Statement. The item of information corresponding to no. B1 is also

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT Page 2

submitted for consideration. The Examiner is requested to make these citations officially of record in the application. This Information Disclosure Statement is being submitted before receipt of the first Office Action for the above-identified application. Consequently, pursuant to 37 C.F.R. §1.97, no fee or certification is required. However, in the event that the first Office Action was mailed before the mailing of this Statement, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge the fee set forth in 37 C.F.R. §1.17(p) to deposit account No. 13-0201 to cover this fee.

This Information Disclosure Statement Under 37 C.F.R. §1.56 is not to be construed as a representation that any of the listed citations establishes, by itself or in combination with other information, a *prima facie* case of unpatentability of any claim in the above-identified application. Additionally, this Information Disclosure Statement is not to be construed as a representation that a further search of the art has been made by Applicants, or that additional information relevant to the examination of this application does not exist unbeknownst to Applicants.

Respectfully submitted,

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